

it was premature to approach US and UK before Egypt and Iraq had reached full agreement between themselves and had consulted other Arab states on plans for revision ALCSP.

He said Salah Salim had pointed out that Iraq desires early action to strengthen its Northern defenses and that Sarsank proposals would have advantage (a) of providing substitute for present Anglo-Iraqian treaty and (b) avoiding involvement in Turkey-Pakistan pact.

Ambassador said Nasir twice told Salah Salim he had been informed by "reliable American source" that US had given up idea of Arab adherence to Turkey-Pakistan pact. After some inconclusive discussion, Nasir said Egyptians would have to discuss matter further among themselves and would get in touch with Iraqi Ambassador again soon.

We of course, assured Ambassador that Nasir had not had his information from us and made it clear there has been no change in US thinking re Turkey-Pakistan pact.

Egyptian source close to Nasir confirms substance of Al Rawi's account. Source states however that Salah Salim walked in on meeting unexpectedly with result that full extent his commitments at Sarsank finally revealed to Nasir, who terminated meeting in order permit GOE get its lines straight.

CAFFERY

regional security plans, but had asked the Iraqi Ambassador in Cairo to see the Egyptians and review the situation. (780.5/9-754)

No. 229

674.87/9-1654: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

CAIRO, September 16, 1954—8 p.m.

358. Iraqi Prime Minister told me this evening that during conversations with Egyptians yesterday and today, their attitude has been that they do not disavow the Sarsank conversations² but that due to present attitudes on part of Communists and Moslem Broth-

¹ Repeated to London, Baghdad, and the Arab capitals.

² Telegram 319 from Cairo, Sept. 9, reported the Egyptian Cabinet the previous evening had granted Maj. Salah Salem a month's leave. No public explanation was given, but the Embassy considered the move a clear way of facing the fact that Salem had exceeded his authority in the Sarsank talks. It suggested the action was a way of putting Nuri Said on notice that the Egyptian Government did not consider itself bound by any commitments made by Salem. (780.5/9-954)